

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of preparing data for a transmission, the method comprising:

transmitting a first signal requesting permission to transmit data;

5 generating a first packet from data of a first source prior to receiving a second signal granting permission to transmit data;

10 generating ~~transmitting~~ a third signal requesting a change of data source from the first source to a second source subsequent to said generating of said first packet, wherein said ~~transmitting the generating of said~~ third signal occurs if the data of the first source is incomplete for said transmission; and

generating a second data packet from data of the second source.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 1, wherein said ~~transmitting generating of~~ the third signal occurs if a time

stamp included in the data of the first source is later than a time of receiving the second signal.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

discarding the first data packet prior to said transmission in response to said change changing to said second data source.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 1, wherein said ~~transmitting generating~~ of the third signal occurs after said receiving of said second signal.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CANCELED)

8. (CANCELED)

9. (CANCELED)

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CANCELED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of preparing data for  
a transmission, the method comprising:

transmitting a first signal requesting permission to  
transmit data;

5 generating a first packet from data of a first source  
prior to receiving a second signal granting permission to transmit  
data;

10 ~~generating transmitting~~ a third signal requesting a  
change of data source from the first source to a second source  
subsequent to said generating of said first packet, wherein said  
~~transmitting the generating of said~~ third signal occurs if a time  
stamp included in the data of the first source is later than a time  
of receiving the second signal; and

15 generating a second data packet from data of the second  
source.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for preparing data  
for a transmission, comprising:

means for transmitting a first signal requesting  
permission to transmit data;

5 means for generating a first packet from data of a first source prior to receiving a second signal granting permission to transmit data;

10 means for ~~transmitting receiving~~ a third signal requesting a change of data source from the first source to a second source subsequent to said generating of said first packet, wherein said ~~transmitting the receiving of said~~ third signal occurs if the data of the first source is incomplete to for said transmission; and

15 means for generating a second data packet from data of the second source.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 1, wherein a link controller generates said second packet when the second signal is active.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said ~~transmitting receiving~~ of the third signal occurs if a time stamp included in the data of the first source is later than a time of receiving the second signal.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 1, wherein said second packet defines an empty packet without data.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

recovering a speed code from said data of said first source for use in arbitrating for said second signal granting said 5 permission to transmit.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting said data of said first source in response to said third signal remaining inactive during a specified period.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

discarding said first packet prior to said transmission in response to said transmitting generating of said third signal 5 occurring within a specified time.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first packet comprises an isochronous packet

conforming to an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering 1394 standard.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 12, wherein said ~~transmitting generating~~ of the third signal occurs if the data of the first source is incomplete for said transmission.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 12, wherein said second packet defines an empty packet without data.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 12, further comprising:

recovering a speed code from said data of said first source for use in arbitrating for said second signal granting said 5 permission to transmit.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 12, further comprising:

transmitting said data of said first source in response to said third signal remaining inactive during a specified period.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 12, further comprising:

discarding said first packet prior to said transmission in response to said ~~transmitting~~ generating of said third signal 5 occurring within a specified time.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 12, wherein said first packet comprises an isochronous packet conforming to an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering 1394 standard.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for preparing data for a transmission, comprising:

means for transmitting a first signal requesting permission to transmit data;

5 means for generating a first packet from data of a first source prior to receiving a second signal granting permission to transmit data;

means for ~~transmitting~~ receiving a third signal requesting a change of data source from the first source to a 10 second source subsequent to said generating of said first packet, wherein said ~~transmitting the~~ receiving of said third signal occurs

if a time stamp included in the data of the first source is later  
than a time of receiving the second signal; and

means for generating a second data packet from data of

15 the second source.